

**City of Wichita
District III Advisory Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 5, 2010**

TO: City Council Member Jim Skelton
District III Advisory Board (DAB) Members

SUBJECT: Changes/Revisions to City Ordinance 9.08 Regarding Trees and Shrubs

INITIATED BY: Law Department and Park & Recreation Department

AGENDA: New Business

Recommendations: Recommend City Council adopt Amendments to City Ordinances regarding trees and shrubs.

Background: As one of its 2009 goals, the Board of Park Commissioners agreed to update the Board's Rules & Regulations and Chapter 9.04 of the City Code relating to conduct in parks. As part of the process of updating Chapter 9.04, it was determined that Chapter 9.08 regarding trees and shrubs was outdated and some provisions were obsolete. City staff presented to each of the DABs during January and February and received comments that have been incorporated into the revised ordinance.

Analysis: The ordinances recognize that the City has the responsibility to maintain trees in the public right of way. The amendments set forth the procedures to be utilized by city staff to prune or remove nuisance trees or branches from trees from private property, and also recognize that the Park and Recreation Department, as opposed to the Park Board, is responsible for the maintenance, pruning and removal of trees in the public right of way.

The amendments also provide for adjoining property owners to prune trees, removal of limbs up to two inches in diameter, and to remove storm damaged and broken limbs within the street right-of-way.

Financial Considerations: None

Goal Impact: Improve the Quality of Life for Citizens of Wichita.

Legal Considerations: The Law Department has worked with Park Forestry staff to prepare the amendments and they are approved as to form.

Recommendation/Actions: Recommend adoption on these ordinance changes to the City Council.